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There are other novel and important features of the Poulsen system which it would take too long to mention. As yet only a beginning has been made in developing its possibilities. The next step will be to test and put in use generators of increasing powers, from which increasing ranges are expected. The success so far attained has advanced the science of communication considerably beyond its generally recognized limits, and affords sound basis for the expectation that a few years will see much of the present work not only of ocean cables but also of long distance telegraph lines done by undamped electromagnetic waves transmitted through space.

ROBERT ANDERSON

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
November 6, 1912

PICTURES OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

HAVING the Open Court series pictures of psychologists and philosophers, I have often wished that I had those of present-day psychologists on the walls of my recitation room. I have often thought of writing to psychologists for their photographs, but that would be a good deal of trouble and if a number followed that plan it would become a nuisance to those whose pictures were most desired. A continuation of the Open Court series would be desirable, but who is to decide which of the living men should be included and would not such a series be unprofitable because of its inclusions and omissions?

The following plan occurs to me as a means of getting what is desired without any of the above disadvantages. Let those desiring photographs name the ones whose pictures are desired to the one who is willing to take charge of the matter. That one can then procure one photograph of each person named and have a plate made from it of the same size as the Open Court series and arrange with a photographer to furnish photos from these plates at a reasonable rate.

Are there enough who desire such pictures to make it worth while to inaugurate the plan? This can be answered if all who are interested

will at once write to me signifying their desires and naming at least a few of the men whose pictures they wish. Prominent educators and perhaps other men of science might be included if they were asked for. If interested do not fail to write at once.

E. A. KIRKPATRICK

FITCHBURG, MASS.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

The Spider Book. A Manual for the Study of the Spiders and Their Near Relatives, The Scorpions, Pseudoscorpions, Whipscorpions, Harvestmen, and Other Members of the Class Arachnida, Found in America north of Mexico, with Analytical Keys for Their Classification and Popular Accounts of Their Habits. By J. H. COMSTOCK. Garden City, New York, Doubleday, Page & Co. 1912. Pp. xv + 707; 771 figs.

This work, the most recent of the series of well-known nature books published by Doubleday, Page & Company, fills a long-felt need, since the spiders are the most abundant and conspicuous representatives of a large group of organisms, which have never aroused an interest, in the American student at least, at all commensurate with their biological and economic importance. The author has arranged the vast amount of material, which he has accumulated during more than a decade of enthusiastic study, in conformity with the plan adopted in the preceding volumes of the series, throwing the emphasis on the classification and subordinating the morphological, ethnological and chorological data to this arrangement. By way of introduction to the main subject of the volume the various lower groups of Arachnida are briefly discussed. This portion of the work, apart from the useful tables for identification, does not rise above the level of many zoological text-books, and some of the sections, as, *e. g.*, those on the ticks and mites, scarcely do justice to our present knowledge or to the economic importance of the subject. The account of the spiders, which are, after all, the subject of the book, is preceded by chapters on